



D21126

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2002

TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/900,881

Group No.: 1724

Inventors: Bikson et al

Filed: 7/10/01

Title: INTEGRAL HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE
GAS DRYER AND FILTRATION DEVICE

Box Non-fee Amendment

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 8, 2002. A two-months extension is attached hereto. A separate amendment to Figures 2 and 3 has also been submitted.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

In Paragraph [0004]:

[0004] The membrane gas dehydration devices are usually utilized as a part of an overall gas conditioning system and are thus frequently used in conjunction with filters, coalescers and cyclone separators that are designed to remove suspended matter, particles, and oil and water droplets from the gas stream. These filters and coalescers are typically employed in front of the membrane gas dehydrators, thereby serving to protect membranes against fouling and extending the life of the membrane device. Attempts have been made to integrate these gas-conditioning devices into a single apparatus. An apparatus for air dehumidification that combines a membrane dehydration element with a ~~cyclon~~^{cyclone} separator and a sequence of filters is disclosed in US Patent 6,019,822. However, the apparatus is complex; the filters and the membrane gas dehydration element are disposed so that the longitudinal axis of these elements is parallel to each other. The resulting apparatus is essentially a fusion of conventional sequential filtration elements and a

91
RHS
12/02/02